

Joint efforts ensure flightline's health

By Senior Airman **Bryan Franks**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Balad's airfield is one of the busiest in the Operation Iraqi Freedom Area of Responsibility - from C-5s to Predators. Keeping the airfield operational is the job of the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron airfield management team and the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron airfield pavement repair team or spall team

"It's part of our job to ensure that there is no foreign object debris that can damage inbound and outbound aircraft or jet engines," said Tech. Sgt. Weldon Bales, 332nd EOSS deputy airfield manager. "We also check for cracked and fragmented pavement known as spalls, that could cause damage to an aircraft's tires or get ingested into an engine's intake."

The airfield was damaged during the first Gulf War by Coalition Forces and little had been done to keep it up since then, until U.S. Forces took command of the base, Sergeant

See Spall, Page 6

(Left to right) Staff Sergeants Junior Badlington and Bill Hassen and Senior Airman Tad Sindler, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron spall team members, clean an area of the runway marked as a sprawl that could cause damage to aircraft.



Photo by Senior Airman Bryan Franks

Keeping them flying



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Protecting the flightline



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Deploying together



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Photos by Master Sgt. John E. Lasky

Keeping them flying

(Above) An F-16 Fighting Falcon taxis by an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. (Left) Tech Sgt. James Moffett, a UAV crew chief serving here assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's Aircraft Maintenance Unit, inspects an UAV.

COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line program. The line is a way for Balad Air Base members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base. Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander, gives action line inquiries his personal attention. The *Red Tail Flyer* will publish those items that are judged to be of general interest to the Balad Air Base population. In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns. The Commander's Action Line can be reached via e-mail at 332cc.actionline@blab.centaf.af.mil. Those using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response.

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, congratulates Chaplin (Lt. Col.) David Fitz-Patrick, 332nd AEW chaplain, during his promotion ceremony Monday.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Chad Watkins

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The *Red Tail Flyer* is published by the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office.

This funded Air Force newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas. Contents of the *Red Tail Flyer* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of the 332nd AEW at Balad Air Base, Iraq. All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated. The deadline for all editorial submissions is noon the Friday prior to the date of publication. The public affairs office can be contacted at 443-6005, or by e-mail at: redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil or 332aew.pa@blab.centaf.af.mil.

<http://www.afnews.af.mil/iraq/baladarchive/current.pdf>



Photo by Master Sgt. John E. Lasky

Protecting the flightline

Capt. Steve Graham, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing safety office, has his sights set to eliminate hazards around the flightline. He is using a .177 caliber pellet gun as part of the Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard program.

Spreading holiday cheer

By Staff Sgt. **Tammie Moore**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

The winter holiday season is the busiest mailing time of the year, so individuals should mail their items early.

"Being away from friends and family during the winter holidays can be the most difficult part of a deployment for some service members," said Capt. Steven Pena, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron flight commander. "Sending and receiving holiday gifts is a great way to feel closer to the friends and family members we are so far way from."

Individuals who are planning to mail holiday greetings home should send their parcel post and space available mail by Nov. 19.

Sending mail via parcel post is the same as sending space available mail, Captain Pena said. Parcel post travel time is comparable to first class and priority mail, however it may be bumped for priority mail.

Priority and first class letters and cards should be mailed by Dec. 6.

Free mail falls into this category, Captain Pena said. But, Airmen are reminded that free mail is for personal correspondence only and has a 13 ounce weight limit.

Family members mailing holiday cards and packages to deployed service members from the U.S. should send their parcel post and space available mail by Nov. 12, and parcel airlift mail by Nov. 26.

Parcel airlift is a U.S. Postal Service option that provides air transportation for packages originating in the states on a space-available basis, Captain Pena said. Mail sent via PAL should not exceed 30 pounds or 60 inches in length and girth combined.

Priority and first class letters and cards should be mailed by Dec. 5.

"I encourage everyone to mail their packages early to ensure on-time holiday delivery," Captain Pena said.

BALAD AIR BASE NEWS NOTES

Open mic night

The Red Tail 5/6 is sponsoring Open Mic Night Saturdays at 7 p.m. at the The Green Bean. Individuals are invited to share their musical or poetry talents or just enjoy the entertainment.

Reserve Band visits Balad

The Reserve Generation Band will be performing at Balad Sunday at 8 p.m. in the Eastside Rec Center and Monday at 8 p.m. in Town Hall.

Looking for volunteers

Individuals who are interested in volunteering at the post office during the holiday season should contact Capt. Steven Pena at 443-7548.

Angelz visit Balad

The Purrfect Angelz are scheduled to perform Nov. 13 at the H6 Rec Tent at 2 p.m. and the Sustainer Theater at 8 p.m.

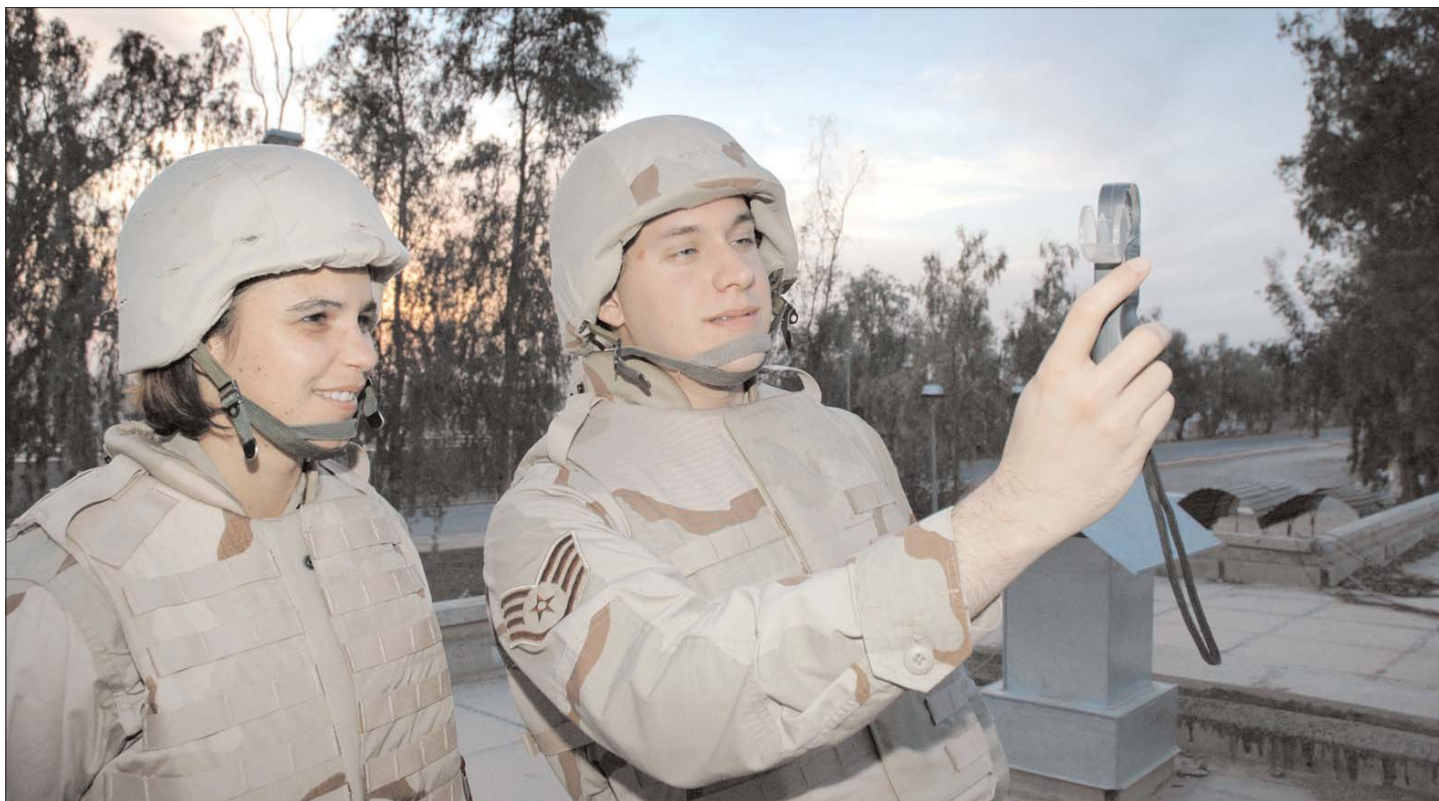
Educational opportunities

Individuals who are interesting in earning college credits while deployed can schedule a College Level Examination Program test through the Balad Education Office. For more information, visit the education office's Web site at <http://intranet.blab.ds.af.mil/332%20SVS/Education%20Center.htm> or call 443-6953

Entry control point changes

Due to construction and base improvements, the following entry control point changes are in place:

- ◆ The H6 vehicle ECP is closed until Nov. 16. A temporary vehicle ECP into H6 is open behind Town Hall and DV vehicles can enter H6 via the DV gate. Vehicles are not able to park outside of Town Hall until construction is complete.
- ◆ A temporary Thunderdome vehicle ECP is located on Washington St.



Photos by Maj. Robert Couse-Baker

Capt. Mary Owens, flight commander, looks on as Staff Sgt. Joseph Round, combat weather forecaster, takes wind speed, barometric pressure and temperature readings with a device called a Kestrel. The portable "weather station" is used as a backup for the fixed instruments used in daily forecasting here. Both Airmen are assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Operational Support Squadron combat weather team.

Weather experts keep mission on track

By Maj. **Robert Couse-Baker**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Capt. Mary Owens doesn't have a crystal ball, tarot cards or a Ouija Board, but she predicts the future every day.

As 332nd Expeditionary Operational Support Squadron Weather Flight commander, Captain Owens and her team of forecasters try to predict the future more than 100 times daily in the weather forecasts they provide to Army and Air Force aviators at Balad Air Base and Mosul, Iraq.

"Accurate forecasts have a big impact on mission planning," she said.

Besides the obvious impact of extreme temperatures, sand storms and thunderstorms, even routine weather has an effect on the characteristics of aircraft and munitions.

Working closely with aviators, the combat weather team uses data from a wide

variety of sources to craft the best estimate of the conditions to be faced on missions.

"The most rewarding part is knowing you're part of the mission, that you've helped make a difference," Captain Owens said.

Master Sgt. John Stevens, NCOIC of the combat weather team, said he sees how he makes a difference every day.

The difference the forecasters make is not just by being able to predict the weather, it's understanding how it affects specific types of aircraft and each different kind of mission, Sergeant Stevens said.

"It's really exciting being able to support more than a dozen different (Army and Air Force) aircraft, each one with its own different weather sensitivities," he said.

In his 17 years in weather, he said this is busiest operation he's ever worked in, but the best part is the people.

"It's rewarding to see everyone coming together," he said. "Everyone comes in from different units and gels together into one team."

Senior Airman Jeff Williams, 332nd EOSS combat weather forecaster is on his first deployment and is excited about his job.

"It's really interesting because I get to see what I'm doing to help the mission; tip-of-the-spear kind of stuff," he said.

But the mission is not the only part of the deployment that has made an impact on the Airman. It's also the life experience.

"I realize, being 21 years old, I take a lot of things for granted: meals, privacy, the things you get back home," Airman Williams said. "Deploying out here makes you appreciate life as an American a lot more. And compared to the Army guys outside the wire, we have it really good. It makes you a bit humble."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

(Right to left) Tech. Sgt. Orlando Soto and younger brother Senior Airman Saul Soto play a game of pingpong on their day off. The brothers are both assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Brothers deploy to Balad together

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Deployments often mean working long hours thousands of miles away from friends and family. However for two brothers here, that is not the case.

The Soto brothers, who are assigned to the 156th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Muniz Air National Guard Station, Puerto Rico, are deployed to the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron together.

"Our primary duty as supply troops is to provide maintenance personnel with the parts that the aircraft needs for it to keep on flying," said Tech. Sgt. Orlando Soto, supply manager. "We also take care of the ground troops: providing them with the tools to accomplish the mission."

Sergeant Soto and his brother are continuing a family tradition started by their father who served in the Army for 25 years.

"My father inspired me to join the service," Sergeant Soto said. "I grew up traveling around other bases it was the life we knew and I enjoyed it."

The path of Sergeant Soto chose influenced Senior Airman Saul Soto to join the service 10 years later.

"My brother is really the one who got

me into this," said Airman Soto, supply technician who has served his entire career with his older brother. "He told me it was a good job. I look up to him because he is really sharp, so I took his advice."

Sergeant Soto said, "I always talked to him about how joining the Armed Forces would help him to mature as a person. It is an honor that he was inspired to join the Air Force by my actions."

The brothers are currently serving on their second deployment together.

"The times I have been deployed without my brother I have been alone which was kind of tough," Sergeant Soto said. "I knew coming here that I would have him so it would not be that bad. That made both of us feel good."

Airman Soto shares his brother's feelings about being deployed to Balad together.

"I'm really happy that my brother is here with me because he means a lot in my life; he is my mentor," Airman Soto said.

The joint deployment made some family members in Puerto Rico a little nervous.

"My mom was really worried about us coming here together," Sergeant Soto said. "She told me to take care of the 'little one,'

but really we are taking care of each other."

Despite the fact that both brothers are assigned to the same squadron, they work at different locations on the base. But they don't let this hinder their ability to spend time together.

"We don't see each other at work very much, but outside of work we see each other all the time," Sergeant Soto said.

Airmen Soto said, "We have the same day off and the same duty hours, so when we are not working, we are together. Every day we do something. We might go to the gym, post exchange or just hang out. I play for the LRS basketball team and my brother will come to watch the games."

Having one another here is important to these brothers because they come from a close family.

"Having my brother with me means I have somebody I trust, speaks my language and I will have his help in everything," Airman Soto said. "Even though we miss our family, we still have each other."

Sergeant Soto said, "As a family we are very close. Having my brother here with me has been very good, because we have given each other support throughout the deployment."



Photos by Senior Airman Bryan Franks

(Left to right) Tech. Sgt. James Goetz and Tech. Sgt. Weldon Bales stir Pavemend as Senior Airman Tad Sindler pours water into the buckets of quick-set concrete to mix it faster. Sergeant Goetz and Airman Sindler are from the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron spall team and Sergeant Bales is from the 332nd Expeditionary Operation Support Squadron.



Tech. Sgt. James Goetz (left) pours concrete as Senior Airman Tad Sindler spreads the concrete before it sets, both Airmen assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron.

Spall, from Page 1

Bales said.

The airfield's pavement joint seals are in bad shape causing more than the usual FOD on the runway, Sergeant Bales said. Pavement seals keep water from seeping underneath the runways. However, because the seals have been neglected for many years, most are cracked and brittle or non-existent, allowing pavement edges to break or rocks to collect and be pushed through the cracks when aircraft roll over them.

The airfield management operations team identifies spalls or other pavement discrepancies on a daily basis. Working with the 332nd ECES spall team, they prioritize the repairs, ensuring minimal impact to the flying mission.

The primary runway is closed daily for three hours to conduct necessary expedient runway pavement repairs, said Chief Master Sergeant Arturo Jayme, 332nd EOSS Balad airfield manager.

"It's a total team effort, there is no way we could keep the runway operational without the awesome effort of our spall team, airfield management operations and air traffic control folks," Chief Jayme said. "A lot of coordination goes into fixing the runway. Working with the air traffic controllers, they are able to move aircraft around to other unaffected areas so the spall team can make the necessary repairs."

Sergeant Bales said, "There've been times when we have had to clear off the runway for emergency landings, but that's part of the job."

The spall team has the ability to repair between two and 10 large spalls a day depending on the size, at times going through 25 to 40 buckets of quick-setting concrete.

The team first cuts and jackhammers out the damaged section of runway then removes all the loose rock so the new concrete can bond with the runway. Once the rock is removed, the team starts mixing the concrete.

"When we start mixing the concrete, we've got to work fast before the new concrete begins to set in layers," said Tech. Sgt. James Goetz, 332nd ECES construction operator and spall team leader.

After the concrete is poured, the team finishes smoothing the patch and then cleans the area removing potential FOD.

It takes between 30 minutes and an hour before the patch can handle heavy loads, Sergeant Goetz said.

After the spall work is complete, the airfield management team rechecks the runway for FOD and then hands the runway back over to the control tower to resume aircraft operations.

"Airfield management is responsible to keep the airfield open so the mission can continue and the spall team and airfield management's work ensures that we can safely launch and recover aircraft" Sergeant Bales said.

Chief Jayme said, "The Balad airfield is in a constant state of change. As we continue to make short and long term airfield improvements in support of our on-going Global War on Terrorism and airfield management's constant vigilance is the key to keep our airfield safe and operational at all times."

Stepping up to serve others

By Lt. Col. **John Williams**
332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron commander

Service — this word is used a lot in our society. In fact, the Air Force devotes one of its core values to service and dedicates an entire career field to its execution. As I've spent time in the services career field, I've come to understand the term "service" in a whole new way.

I spent 16 years of my career as an engineer on "smart" weapons such as Joint Direct Attack Munition, Joint Air-To-Surface Stand-Off Missile as well as Airborne Laser but my true passion has always been serving people.

It probably started as a child when I watched Mom and Dad serve the needs of those less fortunate through our local church. As I grew older I knew I wanted to serve my country through the military.

My first contact with a services squadron occurred during the first week of my Air Force career. I was traveling on my first temporary duty assignment when the airline lost my luggage and I was just naive enough to think the world had come to an end. I couldn't focus on anything at that point except for finding my uniforms and toothbrush.

The Airman who greeted me at lodging listened to me vent and proceeded to check me into my room. About an hour later she was standing at my door with a bag of toiletries. The next morning she had arranged to get my bag and personally delivered it to my room in time for me to make the meeting.

That Airman could have stayed behind her desk and done nothing, yet still fulfilling her job description. However, she did so much more and by doing so she allowed me to focus on my mission instead of a problem that in hindsight was insignificant.

I have tried to emulate that Airman's attitude throughout my

“ You can do the minimum or you can "get out from behind the desk" and serve the needs of your fellow Airmen so together we can meet our mission — Combat Airpower for America ... Right Here, Right Now! ”

- Lt. Col. John Williams
332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron commander

career. I am excited because I see the same attitude in the men and women I serve alongside at Balad Air Base - the Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron professional who stayed after shift in the pitch black to help find a vehicle pass someone left behind, or the civil engineer professionals who worked during off time to fix the heating ventilation and air condition problems in the Rec Tent, the warriors who cleaned messes made by others in the transient tents, or in my own squadron, when members cover shifts for one another so they can volunteer at the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility or participate in sports day.

Each of these members emulates the essence of service I strive to accomplish daily. The question I ask you is "What kind of Airmen do you want to be?" You can do the minimum or you can "get out from behind the desk" and serve the needs of your fellow Airmen so together we can meet our mission — Combat Airpower for America ... Right Here, Right Now!

Everyone I have met here chose the latter. This is why I love being a part of this Air Force team and serving along side fellow Tuskegee Airmen of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

I am proud to serve as your services commander this rotation.

BALAD AIR BASE

UNIFORM TIPS

The Gortex jacket is authorized with all utility uniforms at any time. The jacket may be worn with physical training gear and the Air Force PT uniform as weather dictates. Rank will remain on the jacket at all times. All zippers/buttons will be secured. Guidelines on Gorex jacket wear can be found in 332 AEW 36-2903 [Dress and Personal Appearance Standards], section two.

Balad AB Religious Schedule

Protestant - Traditional

Sundays
9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Protestant - Gospel

Sundays
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 6:30 p.m. Moral and Warfare Recreation Tent 29th SPT BN
Sundays and Wednesdays

7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays
10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

Latter Day Saints

Sundays
1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays

7:30 a.m. Hospital, 8 a.m. Provider Chapel
Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays

4 p.m. Provider Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays through Fridays

7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

Church of Christ

Sunday

2 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Islamic Prayer

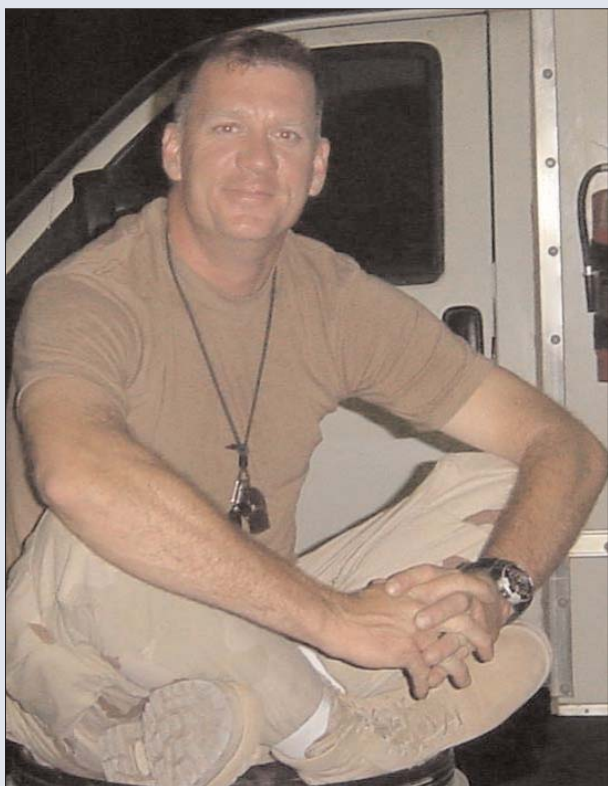
Fridays

1:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex



Courtesy photo

Silent Heroes

Tech, Sgt. Rodger Anderson, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, is this week's "Silent Hero." Sergeant Anderson was chosen because of his leadership and motivational skills which keeps his flights morale high.

Know what this is?

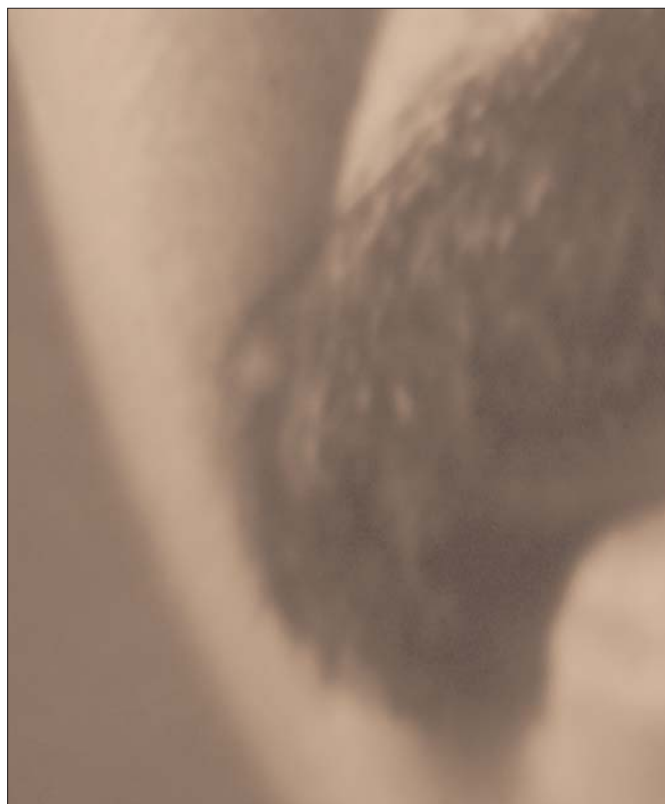
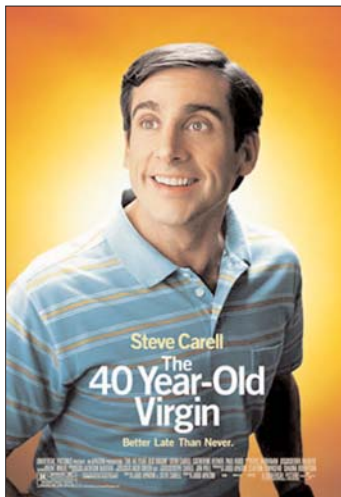


Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. Last week's photo of an avocado was first identified by Maj. Aaron Lade, 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron.

Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today

3 p.m. - Undiscovered
6 p.m. - 40-year Old Virgin
9 p.m. - Dreamer: Inspired by a true story
Midnight - Dreamer

Saturday, Nov. 5

3 p.m. - March of the Penguins
6 p.m. - Undiscovered
9 p.m. - Dreamer

Sunday, Nov. 6

3 p.m. - Dreamer
6 p.m. - 40-year Old Virgin
9 p.m. - The Skeleton Key

Monday, Nov. 7

3 p.m. - The Skeleton Key
6 p.m. - Dreamer
9 p.m. - March of the Penguins

Tuesday, Nov. 8

3 p.m. - 40-year Old Virgin
6 p.m. - The Skeleton Key
9 p.m. - Dreamer

Wednesday, Nov. 9

3 p.m. - March of the Penguins
6 p.m. - Dreamer
9 p.m. - 40-year Old Virgin

Thursday, Nov. 10

3 p.m. - Dreamer
6 p.m. - 40-year Old Virgin
9 p.m. - Undiscovered

